

# NATURAL HORRORS

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In a previous article, I addressed myself to the subject of fears related to sex. In this article, I propose to deal with those fears, dreads, and aversions concerned with natural phenomena: the four basic elements of the ancients, the daily and seasonal cycles, atmospheric and meteorological phenomena, and astronomical phenomena.

The amount of error that has crept into the literature enumerating such fears is not inconsiderable. In my opening article, I cited the fact that two standard crossword puzzle dictionaries, Swanfeldt and Newman, both gave TROPHOBIA as a name for the fear of lightning, when such a word did not exist, the most plausible explanation of it being a decapitation of TONITROPHOBIA, the fear of thunder. There are quite a few other errors, which I must review before turning to legitimate terms.

In Sisson's Word and Expression Locator (Parker Publishing Company, West Nyack, New York, 1966), ASTROPHOBIA is listed as the fear of lightning. It is a typographical error for ASTRAPHOBIA, because ASTROPHOBIA is the fear of stars. In the Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins by William and Mary Morris (Harper & Row, New York, 1962), ASTROPOPHOBIA is given as the fear of lightning. Again, this is a typographical error for ASTRAPOPHOBIA, because there is no such word as ASTROPOPHOBIA.

Sisson also gives ASTROPHOBIA as a name for the fear of storms. Once again, this is merely an error for ASTRAPHOBIA. The same source lists TONTITROPHOBIA as the fear of thunder, but the word is merely a misspelling of TONITROPHOBIA.

The Dunlop Book of Facts, edited by Norris and Ross McWhirter (Dreghorn Publications, London, 1964) gives us ANCRAOPHOBIA as the fear of wind. This is another nonexistent term, apparently a garbling of the proper word, ANEMOPHOBIA.

One rather dubious word has been included in the list that follows: LILAPSOPHOBIA, the fear of hurricanes. It is taken from Reversicon: A Medical Word Finder, by J. E. Schmidt (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1958). The word occurs in no other source with which it can be compared, and the source from which it is taken is of a very high quality, virtually free of errors. Yet, the fact remains that it is derived from Greek, and the Greek word for tempest, storm or hurricane is LAILAPS, not LILAPS.

With the chaff winnowed out, I now commend to the tender mercies of Word Ways readers the following list of natural terrors.

Object or Situation Feared: Names of Phobias

Air: aerophobia, airphobia, pneumatophobia  
 Air-borne influences: aerophobia  
 Air currents: aerophobia, aerophoby  
 Atmospheric phenomena: meteorophobia  
 Bad air: aerophobia  
 Celestial space: astraphobia, astrophobia  
 Clouds: nephophobia  
 Cold: cheimaphobia, cheimatophobia, psychophobia  
 Comets: cometophobia  
 Cyclones: anemophobia  
 Dampness: hygrophobia  
 Darkness: achluophobia, noctiphobia, nyctophobia, scotophobia  
 Dark places: lygophobia  
 Dawn: eosophobia  
 Daybreak: eosophobia  
 Daylight: phengophobia  
 Drafts of air: aerophobia, anemophobia  
 Early morning: eosophobia  
 Fire: pyrophobia  
 Flashing light: selaphobia  
 Floods: antlophobia  
 Fog: homichlophobia, nebulaphobia  
 Fresh air: aerophobia  
 Frost: cryophobia  
 Glare of light: photaugiaphobia, photaugiophobia  
 Gravity: barophobia  
 Heat: thermophobia  
 High temperatures: thermophobia  
 Humidity: hygrophobia  
 Hurricanes: anemophobia, lilapsophobia  
 Ice: cryophobia  
 Infinity: apeirophobia  
 Light: phengophobia, photophobia, photophoby  
 Lightning: astraphobia, astrapophobia, brontephobia, keraunophobia, meteorophobia  
 Light places: photophobia  
 Meteors: meteorophobia  
 Moisture: hygrophobia  
 Night: noctiphobia, nyctophobia  
 Northern lights: auroraphobia  
 Rain: ombrophobia, ombrophoby  
 Red light: erythrophobia  
 Sea swells: cymophobia  
 Shadows: sciaphobia, sciophobia  
 Sheets of water: potamophobia  
 Silence of night: noctiphobia  
 Slime: blennophobia, myxophobia

Snow: chionophobia  
 Stars: astraphobia, astrophobia, siderophobia  
 Storms: meteorophobia  
 Strong light: photophobia  
 Sun: heliophobia  
 Sunlight: heliophobia  
 Thunder: astraphobia, astrapophobia, brontephobia, brontophobia,  
       ceraunophobia, keraunophobia, tonitrophobia, tonitruphobia  
 Thunderstorms: astraphobia, astrapophobia, brontophobia, keraun-  
       ophobia  
 Tornadoes: lilapsophobia  
 Void: kenophobia  
 Water: hydrophobia, hydrophoby, hygrophobia  
 Weather phenomena: meteorophobia  
 Wind: aerophobia, anemophobia, pneumatophobia  
 Winter: cheimaphobia, chionophobia  
 Winter storms: cheimaphobia

The exact sources of the names and meanings included in the foregoing list are available upon request. Further sections of my file of phobias await future disclosure.

## BOOKS FOR SCRABBLE PLAYERS

Although one of the most popular of American pastimes, Scrabble is a game about which few books have appeared. This situation has now been rectified by the appearance of two new books on the subject, one in England, the other in the United States. Darryl Francis is the author of Know the Game: Scrabble, one of a series of game books published by EP Publishing, Bradford Road, East Ardsley, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF3 2JN, England. The book sells for 40 new pence (about \$1) in England, but overseas postage may be extra. This 40-page softbound booklet contains a wealth of detail on both tactics and strategy, including an annotated game which shows the expert mind at work analyzing the various board positions. In this country, Selchow and Righter has published The Scrabble Players Handbook (\$7.50), which covers much the same ground as Darryl's book. Both belong on the bookshelf of the serious Scrabble fan.